

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 22 are pending in this application.

In Paper No. 9, the Examiner required an election of species under 35 U.S.C. §121, from among:

- Embodiment 1: Figures 1, 2
- Embodiment 2: Figures 3-5
- Embodiment 3: Figures 7, 8;
- Embodiment 4: Figures 9, 10;
- Embodiment 5: Figures 11, 12;
- Embodiment 6: Figure 15; and
- Embodiment 7: Figures 20-22.

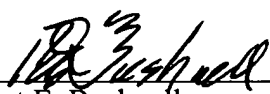
Applicant respectfully traverses the election requirement imposed in Paper No. 9, but provisionally elects with traverse Embodiment 5. Claims 1 through 27 are readable upon various features and aspects of the elected species.

Applicant objects to and traverses the election requirement on the grounds that the subject matter of the seven species overlap. In addition, the mandatory fields of search for the seven embodiments are coextensive. Finally, it appears that the election requirement is being imposed merely for administrative convenience and such a basis for imposition of such a requirement has been prohibited in previous decisions of the Commissioner.

A fee of \$45.00 is incurred by the addition of five claims in excess of those currently pending. The check of Applicant's attorney drawn in this amount and payable to the order of the Commissioner, accompanies this paper.

In view of the above, it is requested that the election requirement be withdrawn. It is further submitted that the application is in condition for examination on the merits, and early allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Bushnell,
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No.: 27,774

1522 "K" Street N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 408-9040

Folio: P56206
Date: 10/04/02
I.D.: REB/wc

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 20 through 22, as follows, and add claims 23 through 27 as listed above:

1 20. (Amended) The lock of claim 15, further comprised of:

2 said housing providing a first bracket having a pair of spaced-apart end walls forming
3 a cavity having a longitudinal axis, and said detents comprising a plurality of apertures formed
4 within said end walls on diametrically opposite sides of said cavity; and

5 a second bracket bearing said coil and said armatures to be slidably received within
6 said cavity between said end walls with said armatures being aligned with said longitudinal axis,
7 with distal ends of said armatures engaging said end walls [ans] and said armatures being depressed
8 into said bore until said housing is placed in said locked state when said armatures are in axial
9 alignment with said apertures, said distal ends being withdrawn from said apertures and toward said
10 bore while said housing is in said unlocked state.

1 21. (Amended) A lock, comprised of:

2 a solenoid comprising:

3 an electrically conducting coil conducting an electrical current around a bore;

4 and

5 a plurality of armatures positioned to exhibit a response to conduction of an
6 electrical current by said coil;

7 a first one of said plurality of armatures being coaxially aligned within said
8 bore with a second one of said plurality of armatures to exhibit an increased outward force axially

9 away from said coil when an inward force directed axially toward said coil is applied to said second
10 one of said plurality of armatures during an absence of said conduction.

1 22. (Amended) A lock, comprised of:
2 a coil disposed to conduct an electrical current around a bore; and
3 a plurality of armatures positioned in coaxial alignment within said bore to
4 operatively respond to conduction of said electrical current by said coil, with a first one of said
5 plurality of armatures being biased outwardly and away from said coil when a force biasing a second
6 one of said armatures inwardly toward said coil is applied to said second one of said armatures
7 during an absence of said conduction.